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BOMBS by MAIL

UNITED STATES POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE

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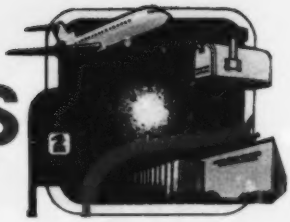
BOMBS by MAIL



The likelihood of your ever receiving a bomb in the mail is remote. Unfortunately, however, a small number of explosive devices have been mailed over the years resulting in death, injury, and destruction of property.

What can you do to help prevent a mail bomb disaster? First, consider whether you or your organization could be a possible target. Motives for mail bombs often are revenge, extortion, terrorism, or business disputes.

Keep in mind that a bomb can be enclosed in either a parcel or an envelope, and its outward appearance is limited only by the imagination of the sender. However, mail bombs have exhibited some unique characteristics which may assist you in identifying a suspect mailing. To apply these factors, it is important to know the type of mail normally received by your organization.

- Mail bombs may bear restricted endorsements such as "Personal" or "Private." This factor is important when the addressee does not normally receive personal mail at the office.
- The addressee's name and/or title may be inaccurate.
- Mail bombs may reflect distorted handwriting or the name and address may be prepared with homemade labels or cut-and-paste lettering.
- Mail bombs may have protruding wires, aluminum foil, or oil stains visible and may emit a peculiar odor.

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- Mail bombs may have an excessive amount of postage stamps affixed.
- Letter type bombs may feel rigid, or appear uneven or lopsided.
- Parcel bombs may be unprofessionally wrapped with several combinations of tape used to secure the package and may be endorsed "Fragile-Handle With Care" or "Rush-Do Not Delay."
- Parcel bombs may have an irregular shape, soft spots, or bulges.
- Parcel bombs may make a buzzing or ticking noise or a sloshing sound.
- Pressure or resistance may be noted when removing contents from an envelope or parcel.

IF YOU ARE SUSPICIOUS OF A MAILING AND ARE UNABLE TO VERIFY THE CONTENTS WITH THE ADDRESSEE OR SENDER:

1. **Do not open the article.**
2. **Isolate the mailing and evacuate the immediate area.**
3. **Do not put in water or a confined space such as a desk drawer or filing cabinet.**
4. **If possible, open windows in the immediate area to assist in venting potential explosive gases.**
5. **If you have any reason to believe a letter or parcel is suspicious, do not take a chance or worry about possible embarrassment if the item turns out to be innocent - instead, contact your local police department and Postal Inspector for professional assistance.**

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